

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9189

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, JA

SUBJECT: 1980 TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS FOR JAPAN

REF: A. STATE A-1182 (B) STATE 11673

EMBASSY HAS NO MAJOR DISAGREEMENT WITH 1980 TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS FOR JAPAN CONTAINED REF. A. WE DO FPND A GOOD DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY IN THIS ENDEAVOR, GIVEN (A) POSSIBLE VARIATION IN TIMES AND STRENGTH OF CURRENT ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND (B) PROBLEMS IN COMPLETING AND IMPLEMENTING CONSENSUS ON GOALS OF MODERATE (I.E., LOWER) FURTHER GROWTH.

WE NOTE THAT COMMERCE'S PROJECTION OF JAPAN'S ANNUALRATE OF REAL IMPORT GROWTH FROM 1974 TO 1980 I.E., 6.8 PERCENT, IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THAT ESTIMATED BY MITI IN ITS PROJZTION, "JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE: A LONG-RANGE VISION;" I.E., 6.6 PERCENT. THIS IS BASED ON PROJECTED REAL GNP GROWTH AVERAGING 5.6 PERCENT ANNUALLY FOR THE PERIOD AND AN ELASTICITY COEFFICIENT OF IMPORTS TO GNP OF 1.16:1 (DOWN FROM 1.50:1 FOR THE PERIOD 1970-74). MITI'S 5-YEAR ESTIMATE IN TURN APPEARS TO BE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION OF A QUICKER RECOVERY THAN HAS ACTUALLY MATERIALIZED THUS FAR.
HODGSON

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